



Fact Sheet

What is South Carolina Healthy Connections Choices?

Healthy Connections Choices is a program that helps Medicaid members enroll in health plans. Beginning in late August 2007, members started enrolling in Healthy Connections Choices and receiving health services from a health plan.

When members enroll, they choose a health plan and a doctor (or clinic). Healthy Connections Choices helps members choose a health plan that is best for them.

When can members enroll in Healthy Connections Choices?

Each region throughout the state has a start date after which members may enroll. On the start date for each region, we send enrollment packets to those who are newly eligible for Medicaid and members who are up for renewal that month.

Region		Start Date
Midlands	Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter and York	<i>August 27, 2007</i>
Piedmont	Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda, Spartanburg and Union	<i>January 1, 2008</i>
Low Country	Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton and Jasper	<i>March 1, 2008</i>
Pee Dee	Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Horry, Marlboro and Williamsburg	<i>May 1, 2008</i>

Can members enroll before they get their Healthy Connections Choices enrollment packets?

Yes. Enrollment is voluntary and current members (with Fee-for-Service Medicaid) can enroll anytime after the start date in their region.

Important deadlines for choosing

➡ *Initial Enrollment Period: The first 30 days*

All members have at least 30 days (from the day we mail the enrollment packet) to choose a health plan or choose to stay in Fee-for-Service Medicaid. If they don't choose a plan or tell us that they want to stay in Fee-for-Service Medicaid, we will assign them to a plan.

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➡ *Choice Period: The first 90 days*

Members have 90 days after enrolling in a health plan to transfer to another plan or return to Fee-for-Service Medicaid.

➡ *Continuous Enrollment Period: One year*

After the 90-day Choice Period has expired, members stay in their health plan until their one-year anniversary date unless they have a special reason to make a change.

How will members enroll?

There will be four easy ways for members to enroll:

1. Enroll by mail or fax, by completing the form in the enrollment packet and sending it to us.
2. Enroll over the phone, by calling the South Carolina Healthy Connections Choices toll-free number.
3. Enroll online at the South Carolina Healthy Connections Choices website.
4. Enroll in person, by meeting with a community enrollment counselor.

Will members have a choice of health plans?

Yes. As long as there is at least one plan working in your county you will have a choice. You can choose to be in a health plan or to stay in Fee-for-Service Medicaid.

Do members have to choose the same health plan for all members of the family?

No. Each member of the family can choose the plan that is best for them.

Does every member have to enroll in a plan?

No. Enrolling in a health plan is not mandatory. A member can indicate that they want to stay in Fee-for-Service Medicaid during the Initial Enrollment Period or during the 90 day Choice Period. After the Choice Period, members must get approval from the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to go back to Fee-for-Service Medicaid.

Will Medicaid benefits change?

No. Members enrolled in the Healthy Connections Choices program will receive all of their current Medicaid benefits plus the enhanced benefits provided by their health plans.

Contacting Healthy Connections Choices

➡ *Outreach:*

Tambra Medley, Project Manager for Outreach
Email: tambramedley@maximus.com
Office: 803 667-4333

➡ *Information and services:*

- Call to speak with an enrollment counselor: **1-877-552-4642**
- Fax: 1-877-552-4672
- TTY: 1-877-552-4670

➡ *Website:* www.SCchoices.com